

MEDICARE-APPROVED PRESCRIPTION DRUG DISCOUNT CARD INSTRUCTION SHEET FOR COMPLETING FORM CMS-20016-A THROUGH D



This packet contains information about enrolling in a Medicare-approved prescription drug discount card. This discount card can help you save money on your prescription drugs. It is available to people with Medicare who meet the requirements described below. You will need to access the *medicare.gov* web site, or call **1-800-MEDICARE** for information about the drug card companies available in your area. You will need this information to complete your enrollment form.

Am I eligible for the Medicare-Approved prescription drug discount card?

There are **no income restrictions** for the drug discount card. You **are eligible** to enroll in the Medicare-approved drug discount card if:

- You have Medicare, and
- You **do not** have outpatient prescription drug benefits under your State Medicaid Program (*your state may call this Medical Assistance*).

Note: If you are enrolled in a state pharmacy assistance program (*not Medicaid*), you are still eligible.

To enroll in a Medicare-approved drug discount card, complete and send in an enrollment form (*Standard Enrollment Form for the Medicare-Approved Drug Discount Card, Form CMS-20016-A*) to the sponsor you have selected. Your information will only be used for eligibility and/or payment purposes in a Medicare program.

Am I eligible for a credit of up to \$600 in additional assistance in paying for my prescription drugs?

If your income is below a certain level, Medicare may also give you a credit of up to \$600 through your membership in a Medicare-approved drug discount card to help pay for your prescriptions as well as pay for your annual enrollment fee, if any. If you qualify, you will be enrolled in the drug discount card and also receive a credit of up to \$600 to help pay for the cost of your prescription drugs. The income amounts are different for single people and married couples. Please see the charts on the next page to help you decide if you may qualify.

You may be eligible for a \$600 credit to help pay for your prescription drugs if:

- Your income*, plus your spouse's income* (*if married*), is **no more** than the amount listed in the chart below.

State of Residence	Single Person Income	Married Person Income
48 Contiguous States	\$12,569	\$16,862
Alaska	\$15,701	\$21,074
Hawaii	\$14,445	\$19,386

These amounts are for the year 2004.

**(Income includes money that you receive through retirement benefits from Social Security, Railroad, the Federal government, or other sources, and benefits you receive for a disability or as a Veteran, plus any other sources of the type that you would report for tax purposes.)*

If you qualify, you will pay a coinsurance at the pharmacy for each prescription drug, until the credit of up to \$600 is used, based on your income level as follows:

State of Residence	Single Person Income	Married Person Income	Coinsurance at the Pharmacy
48 Contiguous States	\$12,569 or less	\$16,862 or less	10%
	\$ 9,310 or less	\$12,490 or less	5%
Alaska	\$15,701 or less	\$21,074 or less	10%
	\$11,630 or less	\$15,610 or less	5%
Hawaii	\$14,445 or less	\$19,386 or less	10%
	\$10,700 or less	\$14,360 or less	5%

These amounts are for the year 2004.

Important note: If your state helps pay your Medicare Part A or Part B premiums, you may still qualify even if your income in 2004 is above \$12,569 if single or \$16,862 if married (*see the chart above for amounts in Alaska and Hawaii*). Your coinsurance at the pharmacy would be 10%.

You are not eligible to get the \$600 credit toward your prescription drugs if you have any of the following:

- Outpatient prescription drug benefits under your State Medicaid Program
- TRICARE (*military health insurance*)
- FEHBP (*health insurance for Federal employees or retirees*)
- Other health coverage that includes outpatient prescription drugs, such as employer or retiree plans.*

**(However, if you have health coverage through a Medicare+Choice (M+C) plan, or a Medigap plan, you are still eligible.)*

How can I become a member in a Medicare-Approved Drug Discount Card Program?

To become a member of a Medicare-approved drug discount card program, you must complete the enrollment form, **Standard Enrollment Form for the Medicare-Approved Drug Discount Card, Form CMS-20016-A**. Please return the completed enrollment form to the sponsor you have selected.

How can I receive the additional assistance of up to \$600 in paying for my prescription drugs?

If you think you may be eligible to receive additional assistance in paying for your prescription drugs, according to the income requirements listed on the previous page, you must complete the **Standard Enrollment Form for the Medicare-Approved Drug Discount Card and Additional Assistance in Paying for Your Prescription Drugs, Form CMS-20016-B through D**. Please complete, sign, and return this form to the Medicare-approved drug discount card sponsor you have selected.

If I apply for a Medicare-approved discount drug card, when does enrollment begin?

Enrollment in the Medicare-approved drug discount card (including the \$600 credit, if you qualify) begins the first day of the month following the month the sponsor receives your completed enrollment form.

If you apply early in the month, you may receive your Medicare-approved drug discount card before the first of the following month. Generally, you must wait to use your discount (and the \$600 credit, if you qualify for it) until the first of the month. If you apply late in the month, you may not receive your card by the first of the month due to mailing time. You must have your card to take advantage of the drug discounts (and the \$600 credit, if you qualify for it).

Why are there 2 different types of enrollment forms?

The credit of up to \$600 to help pay for your prescription drugs is a feature of the Medicare-approved prescription drug discount card program for individuals who meet special eligibility requirements that apply only to this part of the program. If you do not believe that you qualify, or are otherwise not interested in this credit, you do not have to answer the special eligibility questions. You may, of course, still apply for the prescription drug discount card.

How can I get more information?

- Visit *www.medicare.gov* on the web. Select “Prescription Drug and Other Assistance Programs.”
- Call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.
- Call your State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP). To find the telephone number for your SHIP, call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048. You can also find these numbers on the web at *www.medicare.gov* by selecting “Helpful Contacts.”
- Contact the Medicare-approved drug discount card sponsor you have selected.